

“Behind the Scenes” Tours of the Delaware Public Archives are Now Available in Spanish

On April 1, 2015 the Delaware Public Archives (DPA) was honored by a visit from members of the Delaware Hispanic Commission to help launch the “Behind the Scenes” Spanish speaking tour series. “This ‘Behind the Scenes’ tour in Spanish is one of several Archives’ initiatives recognizing the growing influence of the Hispanic community in the First State’s history and culture,” said State Archivist and Archives Director Stephen M. Marz. In addition, Marz stated that “if you were born, married, or attended public school in Delaware, eventually the Delaware Public Archives will receive the documents that record these important events. With new records coming into the Archives on a weekly basis, it is important that the First State’s Hispanic residents be informed that we are one of the state’s most important resources for historical research and vital statistical information.”

“It is an honor for the members of the Commission to represent all the Hispanic residents at the first ‘Behind the Scenes’ tour in Spanish at the Delaware Public Archives,” said Javier Torrijos, chair of the Delaware Hispanic Commission. “This effort is evidence of the impact of the Hispanic community’s contribution and involvement in programs and services developed by Delaware’s state agencies.”

The tours in Spanish of this remarkable facility offer visitors a rare opportunity to learn more about the role of the DPA, and see how the Archives preserves and protects the records that are important to every Delawarean. Archives’ Director Marz notes that “many people who have toured the Archives are surprised by the amount of documents and

photographs that are stored at the facility. Because the Delaware Public Archives serves as the official government repository for state, county and local government records, we are well known as a valuable resource for researchers, genealogists, and historians." Part of the tour will included a viewing of the new display honoring African American Genealogy research in Delaware. Tours of the Delaware Public Archives are free to the public but reservations are required. Please contact Tom Summers, thomas.summers@delaware.gov, (302) 744-5047, for more information about tours.